Amendment to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) A method for enhancing delivery of α_1 antitrypsin to a respiratory cell in a subject, comprising the step of administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding α_1 antitrypsin to the subject, wherein a subject with a blood concentration of α_1 antitrypsin encoded by the nucleic acid displays an enhanced α_1 antitrypsin activity relative to a subject with a same blood level of α_1 antitrypsin administered as an exogenously-produced α_1 antitrypsin protein, thereby enhancing delivery of α_1 antitrypsin to a respiratory cell in the subject.

Claims 2-36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding α_1 antitrypsin is associated with a positively charged liposome.

Claim 38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the respiratory cell is a nasal mucosal cell or a lung epithelial cell.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the α_1 antitrypsin is human α_1 antitrypsin.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encoding α_1 antitrypsin is a DNA molecule in operable association with a promoter.

Claims 42-53. (Canceled).

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

55. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting production of IL-8 by a respiratory cell in a subject, comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding α_1 antitrypsin to the subject,

thereby inhibiting production of IL-8 by a respiratory cell in the subject.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 55, wherein the subject has chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

57. (Withdrawn) A method of treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in a subject, comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding α_1 antitrypsin to the subject, thereby treating chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in the subject.

58. (New) A method for delivering α_1 antitrypsin to a respiratory cell in a subject, comprising the step of administering a nucleic acid molecule encoding α_1 antitrypsin to the subject, wherein the subject displays an enhanced blood concentration of α_1 antitrypsin encoded by the nucleic acid compared to a subject not exposed to the nucleic acid molecule encoding α1 antitrypsin.

59. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject shows a decrease in pulmonary vascular resistance (PVR).

A Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 authorizing payment in the amount of $750.00, representing the fee for a small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(m), a Change of Correspondence Address, and a Petition to Revive under 37 CRF §1.137(b) are enclosed. This amount is believed to be correct; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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Robert A. Hodges — Date: 10/11/2005